



Otter

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Realm



Superfund Forum: Bringing More Questions Than Answers

by Marisa Mercado



Gail Youngblood, representative for the Army Environmental Office.

photo by Lake Satchleben

"People are concerned, and rightly so," said Gail Youngblood of the Army Environmental Office. She was speaking as a member of the panel at the Superfund Forum, held at noon on Monday the 26th in the CSUMB Music Hall. The forum left many of the participants still searching for answers.

The forum began with a run-down of the facts surrounding Fort Ord's status as a Superfund site, given by Youngblood, who spoke the most for the panel. There are forty-three individual sites within the base, which range from NA (No Action sites) to operable (contaminated cleanup sites) which were chosen because of suspicion of contamination. As the panel began to open up to questions, three issues predominated: potential lead

poisoning and air contamination, the safety of drinking water, and the effects of prescribed burns. The panel devolved into a tennis match, with questions and replies shot over a net of disbelief.

CSUMB student Freeda Burnstead raised the question of air quality and potential lead

"People are
concerned, and
rightly so..."

- Gail Youngblood,
Army Environmental
Office.

contamination. The panel replied that "the army is required to do air monitoring. Lead is a long term, not acute effect, so they monitored based on a thirty day standard."

"Aren't there contradictions if the army is doing its own testing?" asked another student. "The laboratories are checked," was

the reply. Then an audience participant queried, "Isn't in their interest not to find something?"

"The liability that a company could accrue is enormous. It is not in their best interests to lie. That could be criminal," was the terse retort.

There was a volley of questions by the audience after the air monitoring system was explained. One monitoring unit is at the base of a hill at "average breathing height" while the landfill and the downwind housing units are on top of hills. Another monitor is upwind. The locations were deemed acceptable by the Air District. "What if dust lands on kids toys?" "If the testing is at the average height of a person, what about the second stories of the houses?" "My neighbor says she sees lead in the dust of her windowsills. Is there a non-biased independent source of testing?" "Is anyone representing the citizens?"

Kurt Gandy, of the Fort Ord Toxics Project, responded "No, we are not allowed to have independent scientists come and do tests, the only thing we're allowed to do is take the data provided from the lab and ask them to base conclusions on that."

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Dia De Los Muertos Celebration a Success: CSUMB Community Gathers to Remember Those Who Have Gone Before Us

by Kirsten Maranda

Monday, November 2, was a chilly fall night, and the perfect evening for the celebration of Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. Many members of the CSUMB community and their families gathered at the Visual and Public Arts (VPA) Center to commemorate the lives of those who have died. This holiday, celebrated widely throughout the Mexican culture, was enjoyed by a diverse group of people.

The event began with face painting and a social gathering. Everyone was invited to

be decorated with black and white paint resembling a skeleton, a symbol representative of death. Candles were given out and the group was assembled.

The Whitehawk Dancers then joined in the celebration. They were a group of many members in full traditional costume including feather pieces and a drum circle. In the cold of a Monterey night, they seemed to be radiating warmth, even though some were barely clothed. These dancers were wildly enthusiastic and their movements were exciting and captivating.

The group of participants was then led in a candlelight procession across the street to the Divarty quad on campus. There, the square of lawn was decorated with candles and altars set up in respect and remembrance of loved ones. The Whitehawk Dancers continued their performance, while everyone was able to admire the altars and even contribute a personal belonging or a name of someone they knew as tribute.

Perhaps the most heartfelt moment of the night was when many students and staff came forward to publicly announce the

name of someone who they were remembering. It was a lovely tribute.

The night continued with music from a group of CSUMB students, more remembrances, and a treat for all of sweet hot chocolate and pandulce, or sweet bread.

Many participants had positive things to say after experiencing the evening of Dia de los Muertos.

HCOM dean Rina Benmayor stated that the event was "beautifully organized and celebrated- heartfelt, personal and communal".

Vice President of Student Affairs Bert Rivas enthusiastically expressed his appreciation by saying, "What struck me in addition to the excellent organization and the cultural warmth of the celebration, was the impact it had in terms of connecting students, staff, and faculty across all groups-including ethnic and racial differences."

The students and faculty of the VPA department along with MEChA, and many others, devoted a lot of their time and energy into bringing this cultural experience to



A traditional blessing by the Whitehawk Dancers at the November 2 Dia De Los Muertos gathering

photo by Jen Coppens

the CSUMB community. Thanks and appreciation are owed to them for the wonderful celebration.



photo by Jen Coppens

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Interdisciplinary Studies Grad Program to be Revamped

by Lesley Rood

CSU Monterey Bay's Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program began in Fall 1995 as a pioneering, student-individualized program, but questions as to its effectiveness have recently been raised. Concerns range from a lack of graduate classes to the inability of the program to provide a solid learning framework for students.

ASAP Program Coordinator Jennifer Astone teaches a Research Methods class for graduate students at CSUMB. Astone used phrases like "self-initiated learning," and "outside-assessed outcomes" to describe the program, but spoke highly of her students.

"It's a tough road for them," Astone admitted. "CSUMB is really fortunate. [The students] are great contributors to our educational environment."

At this time, the Interdisciplinary Studies graduate students are responsible for choosing a graduate project or thesis when they are accepted into the program. The students then choose two departments that best represent their work and request an advisor from each department. The students take classes in each department, but many classes are independent study at this time.

Graduate advisor and SBSC professor Gerald Shenk commented on the dearth of a specific structure to the program, "For real self-starters, and people that have a focus,

this can be an excellent program."

Shenk attributed the program's difficulties to its newness and allowed that there could be no avoidance of such difficulties.

"It's a tough road for them; CSUMB is really fortunate. [The students] are great contributors to our educational environment."

-Jennifer Astone

"There's a long way to go, but that's not criticism," he said.

Interdisciplinary Studies graduate student Gloria Leno agreed with Shenk's description of the program, "It's up to the students

... to make sure you're on track. There's no one there to hold your hand."

Leno acknowledged the lack of graduate classes as her major problem with the program, "We have to take undergraduate classes to fulfill our requirements, and then do graduate work on top of that ... This research class right now, it's the only class that's just graduate work. It's a lot easier to concentrate."

Dr. Qun Wang, Interim Director of the Graduate Studies Program, and Astone both described more graduate-specific classes planned for next semester and the following years.

This year, professors were not sure if they would receive pay for being a graduate advisor. Shenk clarified the University's initial reluctance to ensure additional pay for faculty that accepted positions as graduate advisors.

"We had to commit without any guarantee in order for the students to enroll, but [the University] came through later with some remuneration," Shenk explained.

Some potential graduate students were, however, not admitted because lack of this guarantee limited many instructors' availability.

"It's the principle of the thing," said Shenk, "They want the University to commit their resources ... As a University, we need to sit down and say, 'is this going to be

one of our priorities?'"

Wang explained the lack of immediate funding for advisors, "It was not included in the budget planning [because] we did not know the status of the program at that time. It was thought it would be suspended."

The University is now refusing to accept applications for students until the program can be revamped. "It's because of the lack of infrastructure," said Wang. He described demand for the program as high and the cost as low, but recognized the quality as needing improvement.

"We get calls from all over the world. They're interested in the program. It's the quality we're concerned with now," Wang said.

A full proposal for the new program is due to the Dean's Council by December of 1999. Until then, the program will continue to provide for its current student population but will not enlarge it.

Wang is new to his duties this semester. Previous Director Miguel Tirado recently resigned and the University is not sure whether it will conduct a national search to fill the position or retain an Interim Director permanently.

Leno had only praise for her instructors, advisors, and director, "(Qun Wang) is absolutely wonderful. So positive. He e-mails us to find out what we need. He cares."

Wild Life Invasion

by Kirsten Maranda

As many people may have noticed, this is a big time of year that wild animals are spotted on or near roads and housing areas. Here at CSUMB especially, we have an abundance of areas where animals dwell, and often they appear where they normally shouldn't be. It is deer mating, or rutting season, and because of this, motorists and pedestrians alike need to keep an extra careful eye out for wild creatures.

On of the biggest risks that people face when coming in contact with wildlife, is hitting them with a car. This can cause damage to an automobile, the driver, and especially the animal. On any day or night in the lush areas of Fort Ord, like Intergarrison Road, it is likely an animal can be spotted on or near the road.

Recently in the Frederick's Park housing area, a mountain lion was spotted. This has brought the issue of wildlife awareness even closer to home. The exact area it was seen was first near Intergarrison, towards East Garrison, and then again on the soccer field in the Frederick's II area. No one was injured and no damage was reported, but this could be a scary situation, just the same.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Association defines a mountain lion as "a large slender cat with a smallish head and noticeably long tail. They are usually a light tawny brown, but can appear gray or almost black." Mountain lions are carnivores and they feed on a variety of animals, including deer and rabbits.

Holly White of News and Public

Information for CSUMB said "if you are out hiking, walking, or running and encounter a mountain lion, remember THINK BIG. That is, make yourself look as big as possible....throw stones, branches or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly in a loud voice. The idea is to convince the mountain lion that you are not prey and that you may be a danger to it."

It is important to let public safety or a local authority know if you do spot a mountain lion. The California Wildlife Protection Act assures that "current law requires that [they] or an appropriate local agency...remove or take any mountain lion that is perceived to be an imminent threat to public health or safety."

Deer are a more noticeable, but less threatening animal around CSUMB also. Since it is mating season, sometimes the male deer chases the female deer and they end up in the roads. The SPCA of Monterey County informs that "hitting a deer at high speed can cause accidents and injuries to motorists."

When traveling in areas where deer live, like Fort Ord, it is important to "use caution and occasionally observe the sides of the road for movement. If you see a deer, slow down, if possible, to avoid these animals that are not paying attention to their surroundings."

If you do happen to hit and injure a deer or any other animal please contact the SPCA immediately at 373-2631.

CSUMB Vision Statement Finds New Venue

Local Students to Benefit from University Scholarships

by Mary Patyten

Thanks to a caring and involved community, CSUMB has found another way to serve historically under-educated and low-income populations in the tri-county area.

By this time next year, a number of local junior high school students will have scholarships set aside in their name, from a program so new that it still has no official title.

Earlier this year, after much hard work and brainstorming about how to attract local, traditionally under-represented students to the Earth Systems Science & Policy (ESSP) program, Sara McClellan put together a proposal for an ESSP scholarship program. "There are lots of really exciting things that could happen with this program," said McClellan, ESSP's Program Analyst.

Putting together the proposal was one thing, but securing supportive funding from a university in its "startup phase" was another. Funding for the program was secured late last

month from a local private foundation interested in supporting minority outreach in the sciences. With the foundation's financial support, the new program will be able to provide scholarships to local minority students who might otherwise have been unable to attend college.

Though ESSP has only very recently hired program coordinator Carlos Gonzales to work out the details of the scholarship program, it promises to provide "amazing opportunities" for its recipients, according to McClellan.

Tentative plans call for awarding scholarships to local junior high school students who are interested in earning a degree in Earth Systems Science & Policy. During their high school years, recipients may participate in ESSP preparatory programs which will focus on developing math, science and leadership skills.

"For example, we may be able to develop internship possibilities and tutorial programs for these students. We may also bring them on campus for a "Hands-On Science Week" and other activities" said McClellan.

The scholarships could pay for a significant portion, if not all, of the students' university education.

Newly hired program coordinator Carlos Gonzales will probably spend eight or nine months developing the scholarship program. McClellan believes that the first scholarships may be awarded in fall of 1999.

Finding ways to recruit and retain minority students into the sciences is a challenging yet important part of the CSUMB/ESSP vision. Thanks to this new scholarship program local students stand to reap long-term benefits, due to a shared vision and the community's commitment to funding scholarships for those in need.

CSUMB Activities

Blood Drive at CSUMB

by Troy Martin

The Monterey Community Hospital came to the CSUMB campus October 29th. Parked in lot sixteen, in front of the Dining Commons, was the hospital's Blood Drive

If there are 100 people in a room...

- 46 people will be O blood type
(39 will be O Rh Positive)
(7 will be O Rh Negative)
- 40 people will be A blood type
(34 will be A Rh Positive)
(6 will be A Rh Negative)
- 10 people will be B blood type
(8 to 9 will be B Rh Positive)
(1 to 2 will be B Rh Negative)
- 4 people will be AB blood type
(Almost all of them will be AB Rh Positive)
(Only 1 person out of 200 will be AB Rh Negative)

Bus, sitting patiently, large and white, ready to accept any student courageous or

compelled enough to enter.

"Tell them it's practically painless" encouraged Nancy Bell, registered nurse, one of the available nurses that day in the Blood Bus. "You know, only seven percent of the people who actually can give blood do."

The Monterey Community Hospital has been coming to CSUMB quarterly, nearly as long as the school has been operating as a campus. The Blood Drive's program takes much of its pride from the fact that one hundred percent of its supplied blood comes from the Monterey community itself. That means that the Blood Program is continually on the move, circulating from town to town and school to school, in its goal of maintaining the needed quota.

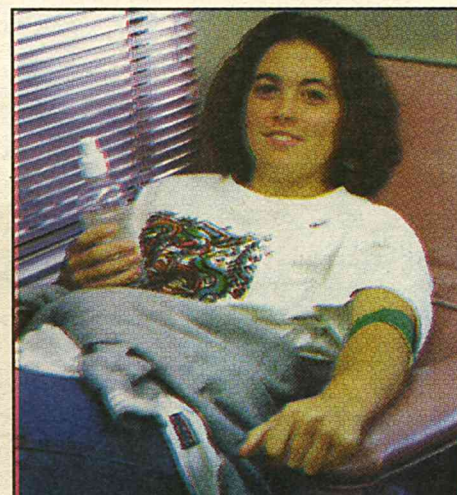
With the legacy of supporting the community from the community, the hospital is constantly encouraging Monterey County residents to be active with and aware of the program. To encourage donors to give more than once a year the hospital also created the "4 Seasons Club," carried along by the motto "Blood for every season." The club, running under the rule that a donor is able to donate every eight weeks (twice the

time needed for the recovery of the given blood) is able to have any eligible individual donate, at best, six times a year.

In fact, for any aspiring donors all the program requires is that they be over seventeen, at least 110 pounds, free from any sickness, and able to meet a mandatory health history questionnaire. The staff strives to make the whole process as easy, painless, and safe as possible.

When an individual leaves the bus after the required fifteen-minute wait, they still have the ability to function in a reasonable manner, though deprived of a pint of blood. The body immediately begins to re-supply itself.

What happens is fluid balance in the blood stream is replaced from the body tissue. Body chemicals and antibodies are replaced from storage areas in the body within hours. White blood cells are replaced within a few days, platelets in eight or nine. Finally, and perhaps the most slow-footed is the red blood cells which take approximately two to four weeks for the body to replace. As a whole, though, all these components are created in abundance daily by the body.



Erin Buechner, CSUMB student and RA in 203 giving blood for the fourth time within the last year.
photo by Kerri Conger

The Blood Program encourages any student who wants to become a donor to call the Monterey Community Hospital any time before five and make an appointment at (831) 625-4814.

Beach to Bottom in Monterey Bay

by Mary Patyten

On November 17, Lovell and Libby Langstroth will share their fantastic underwater photography and understanding of our local amrine environment during their presentation of "From Beach to Bottom in Monterey Bay."

The mid-November event will feature a magnificent photographic tour of Monterey Bay, beginning in the intertidal region, going through kelp forests to the depths of Monterey Bay. According to Lovell, "We'll also include some outer bay inhabitants and fantastic organisms brought up from the depths of the Monterey submarine canyon."

The husband and wife team started diving together frequently after Lovell retired from the medical profession in 1980. Their diving forays have yielded a breathtaking collection of photographs, some of which will be displayed in the presentation's slide show.

The combination of artistry and scientific inquiry captured in their photos is absolutely stunning. Marine form and structure, from the simplest encrusting algae and invertebrates to giant kelp forests and schools of fish, are balanced with exquisite care and captured in vibrant color by the Langstroths' cameras.

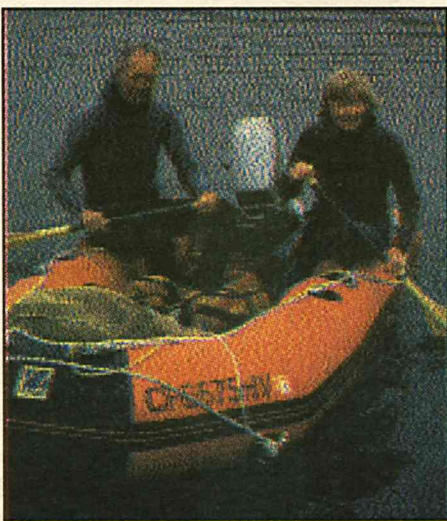
Not satisfied with simply catching their salt-water subjects on film, the Langstroths have invested a lot of time in studying and coming to really understand the creatures which fascinate them.

"We've had some wonderful opportunities open up for us to take classes with some truly great people" Lovell said.

The couple has attended classes at Hopkins Marine Station, studying intertidal ecology with a classroom full of Stanford graduates. They've also studied the ecology of fishes and invertebrates with professors at Moss Landing Marine Labs, and algae with the legendary I.A. Abbott.

"It was my pleasure having them in my classes at MLML, and I think the world of them" said Moss Landing Marine Lab pro-

fessor Gregor Cailliet. "They are the quintessential naturalists - they are both professionals in their own right in other fields, but maintain an active interest in the natural history and beauty of the underwater world. We often communicate about the identity of a marine fish or invertebrate and their photographic 'essays' are very good!"



Lovell and Libby Langstroth have logged over 650 dives in Monterey Bay.
photo courtesy L.Langstroth

The Langstroths were hardly strangers to the sciences when Lovell retired in 1980. Lovell, a physician, retired from a successful medical practice, and Libby has a doctorate in physical anthropology. Both have always had an abiding interest in the sea.

"I knew growing up that I wanted to be an ichthyologist," Libby said. "I was so sure I was going to be an ichthyologist that my brother and I fabricated this copper diving helmet. I would use a bicycle pump to pump air into the helmet for my brother."

An old black-and-white photograph hanging in the couple's basement shows a

grinning Libby and her brother with the diving helmet and bicycle pump. "But in those days, people would just laugh at me for dreaming of becoming an ichthyologist," she said.

Cousteau's perfection of SCUBA equipment and a shared passion for diving would send the couple on hundreds of dives in Monterey Bay. One of their most exciting aquatic encounters was with a gray whale.

"I just remember this big eye going past me, looking at me..." Libby said, shaking her head in amazement.

The couple has taken their ten-foot-long zodiac on numerous dives in Monterey Bay, and they've also traveled the world to dive in the Cayman Islands, Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Bali, Truk and Palau, to name a few locales. They've also gone diving in Maine, and recall that "the water was warmer there than here."

The couple's prints have been exhibited at shows and seminars in natural history museums across the United States and Canada. Their articles on the inhabitants of Monterey Bay have appeared in Natural History and Pacific Discovery magazines, and they have just finished putting together their first book featuring their own photography, titled The Living Bay.

The book will feature over 200 of the Langstroth's color photographs, and will discuss the biology of the Bay and its creatures. The Living Bay, similar to the upcoming presentation, will take readers on a tour of Monterey Bay, from "Beach to Bottom", according to Lovell. The Living Bay, from the University of California Press, will be available in bookstores around the spring of 2000.

The Langstroth's presentation of "From Beach to Bottom in Monterey Bay" is scheduled for 7:00 Thursday evening, November 17th, at the CSUMB Music Hall. Tickets will be on sale at the door only, and will cost students \$1.00, staff and faculty \$3.00 and the public \$5.00 per person.

Building Success Beyond The Classroom

by DeBorah Gadson

Workshops are being held on Wednesday evenings, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, in Building 44 to help with personal development and leadership skills. All are welcomed to sign up to attend. Drop-ins are also welcomed. These workshops are being sponsored by Student Activities and Career Development. Below is a list of upcoming workshops. For more information, you may contact Jeanine Cowan in Student Activities and Career Development at 582-3329.

November 11: Decision Making

Presenter: Michelle Slade, Coordinator of Service Learning Advocates

This workshop will explore the procedure of consensus decision making using diverse approaches. Positive leadership and group ownership of problem solving are enhanced through this process.

November 25: Interpersonal Communication

Presenter: Mel Mason, Counselor

In this workshop you will be able to gain a greater understanding of how what you say is being perceived by others. There are many factors that influence how messages are sent and received.

December 9: Ethics & Value Clarification

Presenter: Matthew Kritscher, Coordinator Student Activities and Career Development

This workshop will show how understanding personal ethics and value systems can improve an individual's contribution to their community. Participants will explore their value systems and determine the priority in which their beliefs are or should be held.

CSUMB Features

Working the Night Shift: Evening Employment Helps Students Make Ends Meet

by Megan Wong

This is the time of the semester when students are stressed about mid-terms or three week group projects that are due the next day. This is also the time of the semester we some very outstanding CSUMB-ers should be commended.

CSUMB is known as a working class campus, which means the majority of students here hold full or part time jobs while going to school full time. A large percentage of students are going to school during the day and then working at night to make ends meet. Many of these people are probably the ones who are in classes every day, but often times show up late and leave early, hurrying off to make it to work on time or oversleeping in the mornings. They are the ones who always look frazzled and are running around to meet deadlines. Somehow, amidst the chaos they manage to get things done despite their harsh schedule.

Many of these students have either on or off campus jobs in addition to their demanding school schedule. Not enough time and money are commonplace among these students trying to balance their fast paced lives. Those who work at night have an exceptionally odd and challenging schedule

in which sleep deprivation plays an active role.

Kirsten Maranda, a senior and Human Communication major, works two jobs, one at night in addition to the 19 units she takes. A 30 to 40 hour work week is normal for her.



Eric Aguilar, a CSUMB student, works at night bartending at T.G.I.Friday's

photo by Jen Coppens

When asked about her study habits, Maranda replied, "I study at work, between classes, late at night, early in the morning, or pretty much whenever I get a free moment...I often have to put things off or

sacrifice sleep to get my school work done."

It is a phenomenon how these students balance their lives. Where do they find the time to do things like grocery shop or hang out with friends? Noreen Ryan, a junior and Liberal Studies major, is working twenty hours a week at night for the Dream

Theater and is also going to school full time.

"Ha! Social life? Can you spell that? I have no social life. My priorities are school and work, in that order, and they are way too demanding for me to have much of a social life. I do necessary things like grocery shop about once a month whenever I have free time," Ryan replied. Many students who work nights also work weekends and consequently have a very quiet social life. They spend all their free time sleeping, doing homework, or recouping from their stressful week. Many see 24 hour establishments such as the Media Learning Complex, Kinko's, and Taco Bell as beacons amidst the chaos in their lives.

Some seek refuge in stress relaxation techniques such as going to the Wellness Activity Center and taking advantage of their sauna.

Or perhaps enrolling in classes such as Yoga or Tai Chi, both of which are offered by CSUMB.

These outstanding students know what it's like to work hard and struggle in this

chaotic life we call college. They should be commended for the roles that they play in our society and the example they set for future students who plan to do the same.

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-Noreen Ryan
Liberal Studies major

Life Off Campus "I Like the Night Life, Baby"

by Kirsten Maranda

When the sun goes down at the end of a busy day, for many of us at CSUMB, the fun of real life begins. This is the time when many college students head off to work, to night classes, or to take care of all those errands that the light hours just don't allow for. A large majority of our student population here have part time jobs and maintain full loads of classes at the same time. This in itself is an admirable feat, but for many Otters, it is just another day in their life.

So, you attend classes, and write papers all day. Then you hit a few meetings or maybe a club event, and after that put in some solid hours at a job. But what about time for you? What about all those things you need or want to do that just don't revolve around your time schedule? Well, maybe these suggestions can help you get some things done at a time that works for you.

First of all, have you looked inside your refrigerator lately? How long is that grocery list looking? You probably keep putting it off until you have the time, right? Well, make the time. Several Safeway stores in Seaside, Monterey, and Pacific Grove are open 24 hours a day. If you hit the aisles late at night, chances are, there will be hardly anyone there and no lines to wait it. You can get what you need and get out quickly.

Do you ever find yourself at the end of a night of work or school realizing you have

a paper due the next day or a test you forgot to study for? For a late night cram session or computer access, The Media Learning Complex (MLC) on campus in building 18 stays open 24 hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

You can also try a local coffee house, restaurant, or bookstore that has late night hours, or even a trendy "cyber-café". Morgan's Coffeehouse in downtown Monterey stays open until 10:00 p.m. on weeknights. They have a cozy atmosphere and lots of caffeine.

Border's bookstore in Sand City has late hours and you can browse the shelves and read some of their books while you are there. They have a separate, quiet café area that's a perfect place to get some work done.

In Seaside, there's a new "cyber-café" with computers available for use at hourly rates. The best part about a place like this is that you can munch on a snack or sip some coffee right next to your keyboard.

Tillie Gort's Café in Pacific Grove on Central Ave. serves until 10:30 P.M. everyday and study sessions are definitely acceptable. The big wooden tables are often used as desktops for laptop computers that people bring in. They offer healthy and vegetarian items and lots of coffee drinks.

For some other chores in the back of your mind that you just keep putting off, you can get them completed in the dark of night.

Have you noticed how dirty your car is lately? Seaside has a do-it-yourself carwash on Fremont Ave. that is always open.

Kinko's copy centers are also a good

place to get some tasks accomplished. They never close and offer many services including faxes, copies, mailing, computer use, and stationary supplies.

Finally, you want or need to work out, right? Well, instead of excusing yourself because the gym is closed, there is a 24 Hour Fitness Center located in Salinas. It is just that, and they offer some pretty decent rates.

For many of you, it may always seem that there are not enough hours in the day and you just have to steal some form the night. However busy you are, or whenever you get your deeds done, it always helps to make a list and set timelines for yourself to follow. Don't overload yourself, but try to get the most important things in your life accomplished.

No matter when you do what you need to do, don't forget to savor some moments for yourself. Everyone needs a break, a good night's sleep, and an occasional deep breath. So, go to class, get some work done, tackle that research paper, buy your groceries, fold some laundry, oh, and try to have some

fun.

College is the best time of your life, right? Don't forget to keep it that way.

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CSUMB Features

Meteor Shower To Roar Across Sky!

by James Thomas Green

On November 17, the sky will fall as the Earth passes through peak intensity of the annual Leonid meteor shower. It will make a spectacular light show.

The Leonid meteor shower is an annual event when there are many more meteors visible in the night sky than usual. Meteors are also known as "shooting stars". Meteor showers are named by the location in the sky they seem to come from. The Leonids, for example, appear to come from the direction of the constellation Leo the Lion.

It's not necessary to buy an expensive telescope or binoculars in order to view a meteor shower. All one needs is one's eyes. Just go out to a dark place, like a secluded part of Fort Ord, or, even better, the peak of a local mountain like Fremont's Peak, and look up. The meteors will be easily visible as they shoot across the sky. One could also make a night of it by taking along a warm sleeping bag, and possibly a warm friend, and lie down looking up.

Some of the brighter meteors will leave glowing trails, which will endure between several seconds to several minutes. The night sky will light up with hundreds or even thousands of meteors.

A meteor shower becomes a storm when the rate becomes greater than one meteor per second or 3600 per hour. Whether this year's Leonid shower becomes a Leonid storm is yet to be seen, but it is certainly possible. Most Leonid meteors will be visible between November 13th and 20th of each year, with the peak on November 17.

As the Earth moves around the sun, it passes through the orbits of many comets. The Leonid meteors are associated with the comet Tempel-Tuttle, which has an orbit of 33 years. Thus the meteor showers peak every 33 years. In most years, the Leonids are a rather insignificant meteor shower. However since 1994 the meteor rates rose as comet Tempel-Tuttle made its closest approach to the sun on February 28, 1998. Since the comet nucleus so recently passed by, this year (and next) will probably see a much larger than usual Leonid storm.

Meteors are not stars. Stars are trillions of miles away and are huge nuclear-powered superheated gasballs like our own Sun. Most meteors are generally small bits of dust, rock or metal ranging in size from dust particles to a few inches across. There are undoubtedly many smaller meteors that vaporize without being seen. There are also a few much larger that may even survive to land on Earth and become meteorites. A good example of a large meteorite impact

can be found alongside U.S. Interstate highway 40 in central Arizona at the mile-wide Meteor Crater. Nothing like that is expected from this meteor shower. Indeed few, if any, bits of this meteor shower are expected to survive the trip to Earth's surface, so don't worry. **THIS IS NOT ARMAGEDDON!**

The last time the Earth passed through the peak of the Leonids was on November 17th, 1966. A tremendous storm of tens of thousands of meteors was seen by sky-watchers.

According to Dennis Milton, an observer then at Kitt Peak in Southern Arizona, "The meteors were so intense that we were guessing how many could be seen in a one-second sweep of the observers head... A rate of about 150,000 per hour was seen for about 20 minutes."

in orbit about our planet. There is a small but real possibility that some spacecraft may be disabled or destroyed.

In 1993, the Olympus telecommunications satellite was lost during the Perseid meteor shower. There is also evidence that the Russian space station Mir was damaged by the same shower. The cosmonauts reported hearing bangs on the side of the space station. This year the Leonids have the potential to do even more damage. The more alarmist predictions claim that up to half of the world's satellites will be damaged.

Meteor storms are found throughout history. In 1833, an intense Leonid meteor storm was observed. Agnes Clerke wrote in The Victorian Astronomy Writer "On the night of November 12-13, 1833, a tempest of falling stars broke over the Earth... The

sky was scored in every direction with shining tracks and illuminated with majestic fireballs. At Boston, the frequency of meteors was estimated to be about half that of flakes of snow in an average snowstorm. Their numbers... were quite beyond counting; but as it waned, a reckoning was attempted, from which it was computed, on the basis of that much-diminished rate, that 240,000 must have been visible during the nine hours they continued to fall."

The Pawnee nation watched the meteors without fear because of their legend of the man Pahokatawa. After being killed by his enemies, he was revived by the gods and told the Pawnee not them not to fear falling stars, for they were not a sign of the world's end.

However the spectacular 1833 meteor storm was terrifying to many non-Pawnee. In the dark-sky days before the advent of electric lights and telecommunications, the effect was tremendous. Many huddled in superstitious fear of the unknown blazing night sky. The United States experienced a major religious revival sparked in part due to this "heavenly" sign.

Unfortunately for those of us in the Monterey Bay Area, the best view of the Leonids this year will probably be in Japan and east Asia. The Earth is predicted to pass through the peak of the storm at noon, Tuesday, November 17th when it will be early morning in Japan. The most intense part of the storm will last only a few hours, but there should still be pretty good shows here both the morning of the 17th and the 18th. The best view will be when the constellation Leo is high in the sky at about 2:00 a.m. local time.

Best Local Place to view the Shower:

Weather permitting, Fremont's Peak State Park is the best local place to watch the Leonids meteor shower. It's close enough that you can go there Monday evening and leave early enough to be in class Tuesday morning!

Fremont's Peak is located about 10 miles from San Juan Bautista.

Direction from CSUMB:

Get on Highway 1 North.

Near Castroville, get on State Route 156 East

When 156 merges with 101, go North

State Route 156 diverges from 101 near San Juan Bautista.

Take 156 to San Juan Bautista.

At the signal-light at San Juan Bautista, turn left.

Get on San Juan Canyon Road and follow it to Fremont's Peak State Park - about 10 miles.

IMPORTANT Astro-etiquette: As you approach the peak after dark, turn your headlights off and drive using your parking lights. This is so you don't destroy the night-vision of those already there.

This time, the storm may be just as intense as in 1966. In fact, some claim this could be the biggest meteor storm since 1833 when upwards of 25,000 meteors per hour was reported.

What makes a meteor a shooting star is the intense heat that is generated when a meteor moving between seven to 40 miles per second hits the Earth's atmosphere and glows from friction heat. At that speed, a dust particle has the kinetic energy of a .22 caliber bullet in flight. This translates into a potential risk for spacecraft, both crewed and uncrewed. In fact, there was pressure on NASA to time the shuttle flight with John Glenn so that the spacecraft would be safely on the ground before the peak of the Leonid meteors.

There were very few spacecraft in orbit the last time a Leonid peak occurred. This time there are five hundred of our machines

Abilities For All

by DeBorah Gadson

With Bonnie Brown and Connie O'Dea

The Association for Students with disabilities (AFSD), is a student club that advocates for the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), a Civil Rights Act that went into affect in 1990. The club was formed in the fall of 1997, out of the need for students with disabilities to advocate for services and equal access at CSUMB. Many ADA issues have been resolved and services have been established through the Student Disability Resources (SDR). Margaret Keith, the SDR coordinator, has done a commendable job developing the SDR supportive services for these students at CSUMB.

AFSD has started a fund raising campaign to create scholarships for students with disabilities at CSUMB. The Van Gogh musical group, from Atlanta, Georgia, started the scholarship fund raising. The AFSD is also collaborating with Student Services to sell the 1999 Entertainment Books. The books are available from the Financial Aid Office in Building 23, and from members of the AFSD club.

Bonnie Brown from Student Services states, "Watch for announcements on General News and for fliers telling when the books will be sold in the quad, too." The proceeds from the sale of these books will be used to jointly benefit the Student Emergency Loan Fund and the Scholarships for Disabled Students.

AFSD president Connie O'Dea states, "With Christmas just around the corner, the 1999 Entertainment Book makes a great gift for family and friends on the Monterey Peninsula." Book sales will end the week before Christmas. AFSD has also received financial contributions from the Monterey County Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities and from Access Options, Inc. On November 10, 1998, AFSD presented a lecture given by Dr. Tony Reid from the Stanford University Medical Center's Lymphedema Clinic. Dr. Reid is internationally known for his research and treatment, of Lymphedema and Breast Cancer. AFSD is currently doing a collaborative project with Student Affairs.

The club works to heighten the awareness that discrimination against students on the basis of disability is prohibited in programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Membership to AFSD is open to all students with or without a disability. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires that: "No qualified disabled person shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity which receives or benefits from Federal financial assistance."

For further information about Association for Students with disabilities, you may contact Connie O'Dea at: connie_odea@monterey.edu or call her at 884-0965 or you may contact Samualla Pry at: samualla_pry@monterey.edu or call her at 394-4196.

Club Meeting Times:

Mondays

All in the Family - 7:00 PM Bldg. 44
Assn. For Students with Disabilities - 1:00 PM

Baseball Club - 12:00 PM ABA Baseball Complex

Martial Arts - 6:00 PM WAC Annex

Multi-Cultural Club - 7:30 PM SV Conference Room

Students Hungry 4 Change - 7:00 PM Bldg. 44

Student Voice - 12:00 PM Meeting House

Teachers of Tomorrow - 2:00 PM Bldg. 44

Women's Soccer Club - 7:00 PM Practice Field

Tuesdays

American Sign Language Club - 6:00 PM 18/118

Dance Team - 7:00 PM 84 F

Fencing Club - 7:00 PM YMCA

Parents Club - 7:00 PM Saratoga Annex

Pacific Asian Students Union - 6:30 PM Bldg. 44

Planet Otter - 5:00 PM Steinbeck Room

Rugby Club - 4:15 PM Fredricks Park Field

Wednesdays

Baseball Club - 12:00 PM ABA Baseball Complex

Martial Arts - 6:00 PM WAC Annex

Otter Christian Fellowship - 7:00 PM SV Conference Room

Skate Coalition - 8:00 PM 120

Urban Harmony Movement - 8 PM 201/ 121

Thursdays

Dance Team - 7:00 PM 84 F

Rugby Club - 4:15 PM Fredricks Park Field

Urban Harmony Movement - 8:00 PM 201/121

Fridays

Baseball Club - 12:00 PM ABA Baseball Complex

Dance Team - 5:00 PM 84 F

Wet & Soggies Dive Club - 3:30 PM Bldg. 44

Saturdays

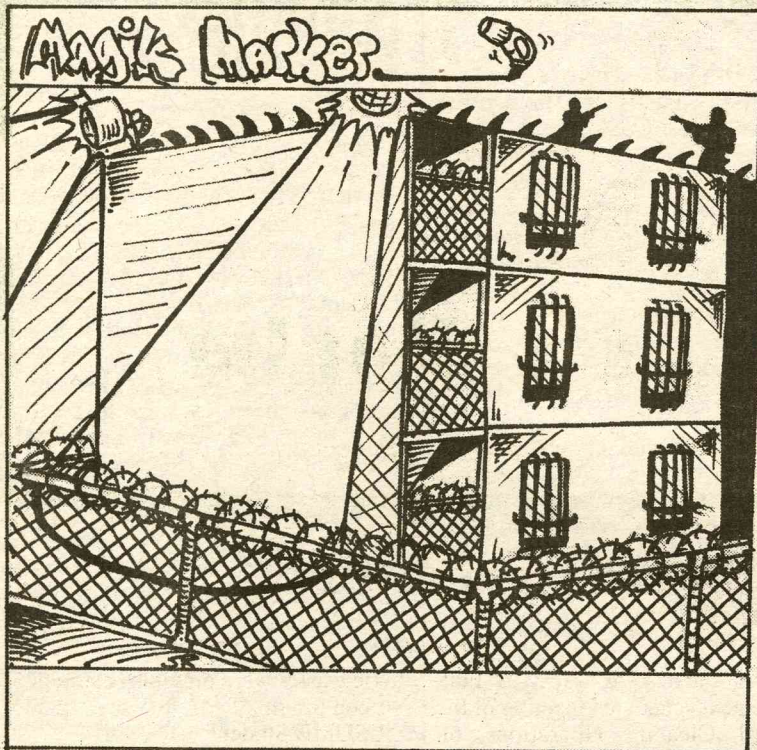
Gamers' Guild - 1:00 PM Bldg. 44

Sundays

Newman Catholic Community - 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM Bldg. 44

Mens Volleyball - 1:00 PM WAC

CSUMB Opinions



Life in the dorms for the under aged

EDITORIAL:

CSUMB is a quiet campus with relatively few nocturnal activities, especially for those under the age of 21. There is a zero tolerance rule for alcohol consumption by minors. There are serious repercussions for illegal drinkers, and write-ups or warning slips are being handed out like candy on Halloween. Students under 21 are stuck between a rock and a hard place; having fun is no longer as easy as buying a six pack.

There is some programming of activities designed to include, and sometimes even geared toward, individuals who are not of drinking age. However, these types of events are few and far between. Perhaps one solution to the problem would be talking to local establishments and/or working with the office of Residential Learning to create an "under 21 club". Whatever the approach, one thing seems clear: if students under the legal age limit are expected not to drink, there had better be an interesting alternative.

Whether or not students enjoy themselves is their own responsibility. There is fun to be had at CSUMB; you just have to make it happen! Don't wait for the administration to put something together for you, take some initiative and get involved! Like the old saying goes, "If you want something done right, do it yourself!"

Notes From the Editor

"Dedicated to Informing a Multicultural Community" is the new motto for the *Otter Realm*. This week the *Otter Realm* has been given a face-lift and shows-off its brand new seal, or since this is CSUMB, its brand new "otter."

The new *Otter Realm* seal signifies important goals I have set for the *Otter Realm* staff as the Editor-in-Chief. The first goal is to become a self sustaining and self-supporting newspaper. The second is to serve as a multicultural newspaper. Both may not be accomplished during my time here, but are worth laying the groundwork for.

The seal represents our commitment to finding our own space on this campus, separate from administration and all other organizations. Our top priority is to inform and get the news out to the CSUMB community. Our goal is to focus on all community interests including faculty, staff, administration and student concerns. Now, we have an official seal of our own to represent our attempt for our independence. Of course, there will be much more for our staff to accomplish before completely sustaining ourselves, but this is a beginning.

As for informing the CSUMB community, my most important task is to find out who that community is. CSUMB is considered a multicultural community, with a population of different ethnicities including 25% Latino/Mexican American/Hispanic, 6.6% Asian American/Filipino/Pacific Islander, 4.5% African American, 2.9% American Indian, 44.5% Caucasian and 16.6% of other backgrounds. There is also 63% females and 37% males.

I cannot know what each group or individual on this campus may want to know about or what may be important to them. It is my job and my staff's job to find out. We are dedicated to opening ourselves to a diverse staff, and to finding out the interests of everyone. It is my passion and my dedication to CSUMB to keeping this in my mind throughout my days and weeks as your Editor-in-Chief. Please, help me in letting me know how I am doing!

I salute my dedicated staff in making the *Otter Realm* better each week and for the patience of the CSUMB community for giving us the time to grow.

Susan H. Nisonger
Editor-in-Chief

DEAR THEA

If you have any questions, personal or of the school, you may send them in confidence to: dear_thea@monterey.edu or through first class by typing "dear thea."

Dear Thea: I am a nineteen year old freshman. I have a crush on a twenty one year old junior. Do you think I have a chance at getting her attention?..... Signed: I REALLY like her.

Dear I REALLY like her: I would think as long as you didn't act immature, she wouldn't see you as an immature freshman. If you want to get her attention, then find out a little bit about her and then approach her maturely with a subject that she is interested in.

Dear Thea: The person that complained about being allergic and distracted by pets in class has a point. Why would a student want to bring their pet to class anyway? I find all of these students on campus that think their pets are so special that they don't have to follow the rules are a little arrogant. Their dogs run around without leashes because they think their dogs are not threats. Their cats roam up and down the streets irritating dogs and starting dog barkfests in the neighborhood. You know it would really be good if each student with a pet would think about the general population and be a more responsible pet owner..... Signed: Hate pet hairs.

Dear Hate pet hairs: Sometimes there needs to be a reminder that not all people share a pet owners view on pets. Thanks for sharing.

Letters To the Editor

Dear Editor,

A social injustice occurred here at CSUMB Thursday night when a person attending a party on Antietam Ct. backed into my vehicle and fled the scene without leaving any pertinent information. The goal of this campus is to instill community spirit and moral justice in all of its students. I'd like to ask this driver if this were to happen to His/her vehicle, wouldn't He/she want to be compensated for the accident? Someone had to be with this person, or in the vicinity when the accident occurred. Understand, my focus is not to judge this person, I just want justice. I would appreciate a anonymous phone call, or an e-mail, if anyone has information about the driver. I drive a Black 1999 F250 Ford truck, and I don't want my insurance rates to go up. I would rather negotiate with this person one on one. I won't press charges. I just want the bill to be paid for the damages done. I hope that some one in the community will come forward. You can leave an anonymous message at 582-0137.

Thank-you,
Cary Smallwood

Dear Editor,

A KSBW news broadcast on October 26th confirmed test well contamination next to a drinking water well on Fort Ord. Miscalculation, misinformation, and deception characterizes the environmental water thermometer at the CSUMB/Ft Ord identification and clean up operation. CSUMB students were never officially told that they were applying to attend school at a Superfund site before coming here, but they were told that health insurance was mandatory. The Army has repeatedly denied the existence of chemical weapons ever being used here on Fort Ord. Recently I was contacted by a former field soldier, Ken Roswell (from New York) who was stationed here in during the Vietnam conflict. He emphatically stated that there were chemical weapons present here on base, and that they were

part of his training.

The fact is that toxic chemicals such as trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene and chloroform have been detected in ground water 180 feet down (beneath the Frederick's Park Parcel). The amount found, 6 micrograms per liter, exceeded the EPA's maximum amount of VOC (concentration in the groundwater.) (source: the Finding of Suitability to Transfer California State University Monterey Bay from the Former Fort Ord, April 1994). "Chemical agent identification sets (CAIS) were used at Fort Ord prior to 1974 for field training troops off 10th Street Gate Road past the landfill area off Imjin Road (which confirms information from my New York contact). In 1974, four CAIS in the inventory were removed from the installation and sent to Edgewood, Maryland." (source: Internal Survey and Analysis Report, April 1974, Department of Defense, US Army Chemical Material Destruction Agency). Edgewood is where these type of substances are sent for analysis, thus confirming their nature.

All of the students I randomly polled here (n=22) at CSUMB DO NOT DRINK the tap water. All choose to order bottled water instead from various distributors serving the campus. They don't know for a fact that the water is not safe, but have heard enough evidence to decide that it is in their best interest not to drink it. I question the Army's integrity in reporting information to the public, because their story is always changing to fit what appeases students and residents on campus rather than the grave situation at hand. I personally spoke to someone (who asked not to be identified in fear of losing her job) who conducted the field tests of water supplies in Marina, Seaside, Monterey, Carmel, and Fort Ord couple of years ago and it was her opinion, and that of UC Berkeley, that people should NOT TO DRINK THE WATER HERE.

Cont. on page 7

Editorial Policy

The *Otter Realm* is a bi-monthly student publication produced by the *Otter Realm* club and HCOM 395. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Otter Realm* staff, CSUMB administration, faculty, staff or college policy.

The *Otter Realm* serves two purposes: it is a training lab for students who wish to learn journalism skills, and it is a forum of free expression of campus issues and news. The Opinion section is open for students, staff, faculty, and college community. The *Otter Realm* Editorial Board will determine what to print on these pages. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit for libel, space or clarity.

Oops!

We neglected to mention: In the October 28th issue of the *Otter Realm*, the Opinions piece by Joya Chavarin was edited for space by Susan Nisonger.

Superfund Forum:

Cont. from front page

Finally a student asked directly, "as a public citizen, I want to be able to know if I wanted to get a sample for an independent source to test, would I be allowed?" Youngblood replied, "It's not really something I can answer right now."

Gandy broke out and said "the RAB (Residential Advisory Board) is never allowed to advise until after the decisions have been made."

The planned burning was also discussed, and the prescribed burn plans were shared. There are a total of 8,150 acres, including 1,400 which are slated for future development.

A student pointed out that some of the burn sites are also hazardous waste sites. Youngblood replied that the burning would vaporize any harmful chemicals.

After the forum, the panel members stayed behind to answer individual questions. About half of the audience went up to talk with them.

There were mixed feelings by the audience participants. Student Voice member Eric

Shelburn said afterwards, "there is still a lot that needs to be addressed, especially about how they measured the air. I think they purposely set the monitors below the air flow."

Junior Adrian Rocha said, "It was pretty informative, and it was good that they stayed after. I got most of my questions answered, but it could have been more organized; it was pretty chaotic."

Student Assistant Don Kozlowski noted, "It would have been better if they focused on something, raised that issue of lead in a different forum. Bill Kilgore didn't get to speak at all. We didn't hear about the landfill gasses."

Student Lake Sachtleben still had unanswered questions, "Why doesn't the school address this? Why don't they tell incoming students? Why do they do air monitoring over a month long period instead of daily? Three times it highly exceeded the prescribed level. They did not choose monitoring based on health, but boundaries. That disturbed me because I don't feel like I have any rights in the situation."

Junior Amanda Irwin was concerned about the tone of the

"I felt like we heard more from the Army than anyone else..."
Junior Amanda Irwin

panel. She pinpointed the frustration of the audience when she remarked, "I felt like we heard more from the Army than anyone else, and they were really well rehearsed, like I was being lied to. It's interesting that much of what we found out was from Kurt Gandy, an outside source, and not from the school. I wish there was more diversity on the panel dealing with the issue. Knowledge, sarcasm, nothing we said could penetrate them."

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Letters to the editor:

cont. from page 6

What's going on here, CSUMB? Find out at the next scheduled meeting of the Fort Ord Cleanup Operations on November 10, 1998(6:30-9:30 PM) in the Gold Room at the Stilwell Community Center, Bldg. 4260, Intersection of North-South Road and Gigling Road (Presidio of Monterey Annex here on Fort Ord). Topics on the agenda will be a Carbon Tetrachloride Investigation update, Groundwater update, and a Vegetation Burn update.

I recommend that the next Superfund Forum be held at the Dining Commons on campus- 200 yards away from where

toxic wastes were previously stored.

Leon Smith
CSUMB Student

According to Holly White, the News and Public Information Officer for CSUMB, the wells which Mr. Smith is referring to are not the wells that our tap water comes from. These wells are not affecting our tap water at all.

The Otter Realm was not involved in the research of this piece. This is the opinion of the author and a response has been requested from the Army about the issues brought up in this piece.

From Voice to Silence: ASL Turns the Tables

by DeBorah Gadson

Earlier in this semester, the American Sign Language (ASL) club, in conjunction with nation wide Deaf Awareness Week put on an event called "Deaf City" in an effort to raise awareness of the deaf community. If one can imagine trying to fill a prescription, make a bank transaction or even order lunch without saying a word, then one can imagine the energy of those who participated in the Deaf City event. Participants were given a chores list to complete at the various booths representing different businesses. Local businesses such as Wells Fargo and Burger King assisted in putting together the various booths where participants got a light hearted perspective of trying to silently communicate. Lara Marvin-Travis states:

"Feedback was strongly positive and we look forward to another exciting Deaf Awareness Week activity next year." The ASL club also plans to have other events this semester such as a fingerspelling workshops and hopefully a public concert around the holiday season. "We will have a bigger event next year, Deaf City will be back" states Tim Hoon, president of the ASL Club.

The ASL Club meets on Tuesday nights at 6:00 in bldg. 18 (MLC), room 118 and the meetings are open to all. After each meeting, there is some type of extra-curricular event where someone from the deaf community comes in to speak or a movie is shown to help educate about the deaf culture. If you would like more information about the ASL club, you may contact Tim Hoon at: tim_hoon@monterey.edu.

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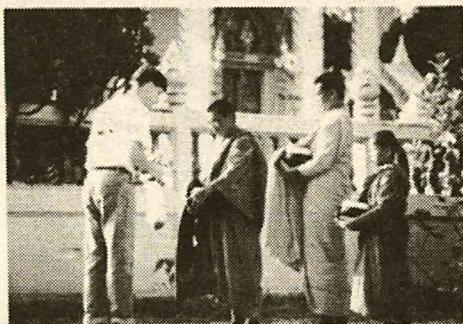
CLOSED FRIDAY & SATURDAY

♦ 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sunday

♦ WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP, Mondays 7-9 p.m. (beginning 10-12-98)

♦ AFRICAN AMERICAN OPEN FORUM, Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. (beginning 10-20-98)

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HAPPENINGS November

11/13	Friday	Women's Basketball vs. Life Bible College WAC 7:30 p.m.
11/15	Sunday	Turkey Trot: 4.8 mile run Main Quad, 8 a.m.
11/15-11/19		CSUMB Hunger Awareness Week
11/15	Sunday	Hunger Awareness Week- "Grate American Sleep-Out" corner of Manassas and Abrahms in FP11, 6 p.m. ends 11/16 7 a.m. in Main Quad in front of bookstore
11/16	Monday	Hunger Awareness Week- "Student Presented Consumerism Workshop" Steinbeck Room, 12 p.m.
11/17	Tuesday	Hunger Awareness Week- "Hunger Banquet" BBC, 7 p.m.
11/17	Tuesday	Intramural Soccer Begins TBA, 10 a.m.
11/18	Wednesday	Hunger Awareness Week- "12 Hour Fast" Individual participation begins upon waking up Mid Day event, Main Quad, 12 p.m. End of event, BBC, 6 p.m.
11/18	Wednesday	"Building Success Beyond the Classroom: Communication" Bldg. 44, 6-8 p.m.
11/19	Thursday	Hunger Awareness Week- "Speak Out" Main Quad, 12 p.m.
11/19	Thursday	Outdoor Education Lecture Bldg. 30, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
11/20	Friday	"How to Survive and Thrive at CSUMB" Workshop \$10 Register in Bldg. 44 (lunch provided) BBC, 12-6 p.m.
11/21	Saturday	"Success Happens!" Personal Development Conference Bldg. 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
11/24	Tuesday	Men's Basketball vs. Notre Dame WAC, 5:30 p.m.

Sports Writers Needed!

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**Sports Editor
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